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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/872,319

06/01/2001

Lennart Axelsson

LCB 363

4554

7590

12/03/2003

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/872,319

Applicant(s)

AXELSSON, LENNART

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Appeal Brief filed September 23, 2003 has been placed of record in the file as Paper No. 6.

2. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on September 23, 2003, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonoda (U.S. Patent No. 4,466,692) in view of Harper, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,595,788). With regard to Claims 1-2, 4 and 6, Sonoda discloses a terminal (Fig. 1) disposed on a carrier strip (Fig. 3), the terminal (Fig. 1) comprising: an electrically conductive contact portion (A); and a generally cylindrically barrel portion (1B), the round barrel portion (1B) of the terminal (Fig. 1) being attached to the carrier strip (Fig. 3) at two distinct points, the plurality of terminals (Fig. 1) being integrally connected with links of the carrier strip (Fig. 3) and the terminals (Fig. 1) are arranged on the carrier strip (Fig. 3) such that there are first and last end terminals (Fig. 3) with a plurality of intermediate terminals (Fig. 3) disposed between the end terminals (Fig. 3) on the carrier strip (Fig. 3), wherein each of the end terminals (Fig. 3) includes a barrel portion (1B) and each of the intermediate terminals (Fig. 3) includes a barrel portion (1B). See Figs. 1-3.

However, Sonoda doesn't show the barrel portion having a generally squared shoulder disposed around a portion of the cylindrical barrel portion such that a cross

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section of the barrel portion taken at the carrier strip includes a generally round portion not adjacent the carrier strip and a generally squared portion adjacent the carrier strip, the squared shoulder facilitating cutting the terminal completely from the carrier strip, and the generally round barrel portion has a generally squared shoulder at each of the distinct points, the barrel portion having a single generally squared shoulder where the barrel portion meets one of the links of the carrier strip and each of the intermediate terminals includes the barrel portion having a pair of generally squared shoulder generally diametrically opposed on the barrel portion such that each shoulder meets one of the links of the carrier strip.

Harper, Jr. et al. discloses the concept of having a generally squared shoulder (54), the squared shoulder (54) facilitating cutting the connectors (40) completely from the carrier strip (Fig. 2), and the squared shoulder (54) located at distinct points. See Figs. 1-6.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the terminal of Sonoda by including a generally squared shoulder as taught in Harper, Jr. et al. in order to allow relatively easily cutting or severing of the connectors from the strip. (Column 4, Lines 33-39).

With regard to Claim 3, Sonoda discloses the terminal (Fig. 1) further comprising a dielectric intermediate portion (1A) disposed between the contact portion (A) and the barrel portion (1B). See Figs. 1-3.

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With regard to Claim 5, Sonoda discloses each of the plurality of terminals (Fig. 1) further comprising a dielectric intermediate portion (1A) disposed between the contact portion (A) and the barrel portion (1B). See Figs. 1-3.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment filed February 10, 2003 necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

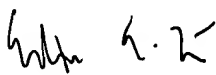
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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833


Gary K. Van
Receptionist

EAL
November 24, 2003